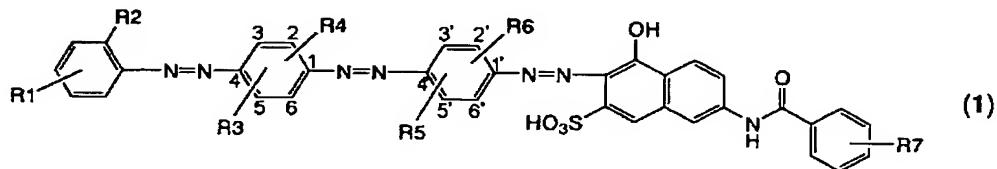


ABSTRACT

A polarizing film or polarizing plate containing, as a dichroic dye, an azo compound whose free acid form is represented by the following formula (1):



wherein R1 and R2 each independently represents sulfo, carboxy, lower alkyl, or lower alkoxy; R3 represents lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, or acetyl amino; R4 to R6 each independently represents hydrogen, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, or acetyl amino; and R7 represents hydrogen, amino, or hydroxy. The polarizing film and plate are excellent in polarizing performance and durability and are highly reduced in color leakage in the visible light region.